

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, UK, UN

SUBJECT: UN COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPTIONAL
PROTOCOL

1. AS EMBASSY AWARE, UK RATIFIED SUBJECT COVENANTS AND
PROTOCOL MAY 20, 1976. ALL HAVE ENTERED INTO FORCE.
2. US VOTED FOR COVENANTS AND PROTOCOL IN UN GENERAL
ASSEMBLY BUT QUESTION OF SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION REMAINS
UNDER STUDY.
3. SLOW AND DELIBERATE APPROACH OF OTHER NATIONS WITH
RESPECT TO RATIFICATION OF THESE INSTRUMENTS AND THE
DIFFICULTIES HERE OF OBTAINING SENATE ADVICE AND CONSENT
TO HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES (AS EVIDENCED IN REPEATED
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FAILURES TO GAIN CONSENT ON GENOCIDE CONVENTION) HAVE SO

FAR DETERRED ADMINISTRATION FROM SIGNING COVENANTS AND PROTOCOL AND SUBMITTING THEM TO THE SENATE FOR ITS ADVICE AND CONSENT.

4. WE DETECT A WIDENING AND DEEPENING OF CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE USG WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE QUESTION OF US

RATIFICATION OF THE COVENANTS AND PROTOCOL. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND IN VIEW OF THE CHANGED SITUATION RESULTING FROM THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE INSTRUMENTS WITH THE SUPPORT OF SUCH PARTIES AS THE UK, DEPARTMENT IS REASSESSING COURSE IT SHOULD FOLLOW WITH RESPECT TO US SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION.

5. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO DEPARTMENT TO RECEIVE COMPLETE AND DETAILED INFORMATION REGARDING UK RATIFICATION. IF POSSIBLE, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE THE FOLLOWING:

(A) A BRIEF BACKGROUND OF UK RATIFICATION PROCEDURES IN THIS CASE, INCLUDING TIMING, HEARINGS, ETC; (B) OBJECTIONS PERCEIVED WITHIN UKG AND PRESENTED IN PARLIAMENT OR OTHERWISE AND CONSIDERATIONS IMPORTANT IN MEETING OR OVERCOMING THEM; (C) TEXTS OF, OR IF THESE UNAVAILABLE BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE, REGARDING STUDIES MADE BY UKG OR RESPONSIBLE ACADEMICIANS OR OTHERS OF PROBLEM OF CONSISTENCY BETWEEN COVENANTS AND UK POLICY, LEGISLATION AND PRACTICE; (D) ANY LEGISLATIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE OR OTHER CHANGES THAT MAY HAVE BEEN ADOPTED OR EFFECTED TO FACILITATE RATIFICATION AND ANY THAT MAY STILL BE CONTEMPLATED; (E) ATTITUDE OF UK TOWARD POSSIBLE USG RATIFICATION AND UK APPRAISAL OF PROBLEMS WHICH US AND UK MIGHT HAVE IN COMMON IN FIRST YEARS OF APPLICATION COVENANTS AND PROTOCOL AND OPERATION OF PROCEDURES UNDER THEM; (F) ANY AVAILABLE FULL TEXTS OF DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS RELEVANT TO FOREGOING E.G. ANY PARLIMENTARY REPORTS OR DEBATES, MAJOR ARTICLES OR EDITORIALS, ANY LEGISLATION OR ORDERS, ETC. ROBINSON

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